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Guilty officers on own in suits

City has no plans to pay victims in task force cases, Davis says

By Luke Broadwater
The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore City Solicitor Andre Davis said Wednesday that city officials do not plan to cover any costs or damages arising out of civil lawsuits filed against convicted police officers who were members of the Gun Trace Task Force.

The corrupt officers, he said, are on their own.

Dozens of state and federal lawsuits are expected against the eight task force members who were convicted of various federal crimes, including racketeering and robbery. Six pleaded guilty, while two were convicted at trial this week.

Andre Davis

In one of the first federal lawsuits, filed by Ivan Potts in 2016 against the city and three of the officers, city government lawyers are arguing that taxpayers should not be responsible for potential damages.

"Each and every one of the wrongs ... were committed outside of the scope of the officers' employment as BPD law enforcement officers and in pursuit of said officers' private and personal interests," city government lawyers wrote in a filing last month.

Davis said Wednesday that this is a strategy the city plans to use going forward with other actions, though he said officials would consider each suit to see if there should be an exception. And in some cases, a judge could order the city to pay.

See **TASK FORCE,** *page 11*

JOEL AUERBACH/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Worried parents wait for news after reports of a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

17 fatally shot at school in Florida

Several others wounded; police take suspected gunman into custody

By David Fleshler, Aric Chokey, Lisa J. Huriash and Linda Trischitta
Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. — At least 17 people were shot to death and several others wounded Wednesday at a Florida high school in a horrific episode of school violence that sent scores of students running into the streets to escape the bullets and ended with the arrest of a former student as the suspected gunman.

Panicked parents streamed to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in an affluent part of Broward County as police SWAT team members and ambulances surrounded the campus. Live footage from news helicopters showed emergency workers who appeared to be treating the wounded on sidewalks, and students congregating on streets, many crying, hugging and calling friends and family on their phones.

In a grainy Snapchat video from the school, a man yelled, "Oh my God," as the pop-pop, pop-pop of four gunshots rang out and students screamed.

Broward Sheriff Scott Israel said 17

See **SCHOOTINGS,** *page 9*

Officials urged Amazon to help reshape Baltimore

Failed bid to bring retailer's second headquarters to Port Covington made public

By Ian Duncan
The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore used a lushly designed website to offer itself up to Amazon — unsuccessfully, it turned out — as a place where the online retailer could reshape the city by bringing its second headquarters and a promised 50,000 jobs to the Port Covington waterfront.

"The HQ2 project will be — in the right place — an opportunity for true urban revitalization and community invigoration. Establishing its headquarters in Baltimore, a majority African American city, is a public statement of Amazon's investment in diversity and inclusion," the city wrote in its pitch, which was unveiled Wednesday.

"HQ2 will transform the lives of the current generation of Baltimoreans, give hope to the next, and permanently tie Amazon to the renaissance of one of America's greatest cities."

At a time when Mayor Catherine E. Pugh has said Baltimore has a perception problem and that she wants to change the narrative about the city, the proposal to Amazon is in many ways a distillation of the way the city's political and business elite would like it to be seen.

Economic development officials said they will repackage the Amazon bid, pulled together over five weeks in the fall, and use it to market the city to other companies.

Marcus Stephens, chief branding officer for the company behind Port Covington,

See **AMAZON,** *page 11*

Gov. Larry Hogan

Hogan supports 'lockbox' to keep all casino revenues for education

By Michael Dresser | The Baltimore Sun

Gov. Larry Hogan described plans Wednesday to increase state spending on public education by $4.4 billion over the next decade by ensuring that all the revenue Maryland gets from casinos is spent to improve schools.

His proposal echoes calls from the Democratic leaders of the General Assembly to create a "lockbox" for casino revenues, and to use the money to increase education funding beyond the levels required by a state formula.

But the Republican governor's plan ran into skepticism from advocates for education who argued that the state needs to increase money for schools by far more than the governor is proposing. Others questioned the strength of the so-called

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SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

MARYLAND

INCIDENT AT NSA: Three people were injured at Fort Meade early Wednesday when the driver and two passengers in a black SUV attempted to enter the National Security Agency compound and were taken into custody. **NEWS PG 2**

NATION

WHITE HOUSE VETTING: Congress is demanding the White House produce documents on how it handled allegations of domestic abuse against Rob Porter. **NEWS PG 8**

EXPENSES QUESTIONED: Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin is the latest Cabinet member to face trouble over his travel expenses. **NEWS PG 4**

TODAY'S WEATHER

CLOUDY

68 HIGH | **57** LOW

Showers on Friday **SPORTS PG 8**

Flutter in your heart?

Could be love…or AFib

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